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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,699	03/16/2004	Jae-Wook Jung	P-0666	1774

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EXAMINER

ING, MATTHEW W

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/800,699	Applicant(s) JUNG, JAE-WOOK	
	Examiner Matthew W. Ing	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 20 (Page 2, line 13).
2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The drawings submitted fail to illustrate the widths of the inner and end sides of the engaging portion of the coupling unit (Claim 6); the triangular form of said engaging portion (Claim 7); and the manner in which the coupling unit is fixedly engaged in the holes of the front panel (Claims 8 and 10). Therefore, these features of the invention must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

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be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. In addition to Replacement Sheets containing the corrected drawing figure(s), applicant is required to submit a marked-up copy of each Replacement Sheet including annotations indicating the changes made to the previous version. The marked-up copy must be clearly labeled as "Annotated Sheets" and must be presented in the amendment or remarks section that explains the change(s) to the drawings. See 37 CFR 1.121(d)(1). Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing and marked-up copy will result in the abandonment of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art disclosed by the applicant in Figure 2 of his application, in view of Tillman (5,031,266). The prior art of Figure 2 teaches a refrigerator door including a front panel (210) formed at a front

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surface of a refrigerator door and having both end portions formed in a bent rectangular form (212); a side panel coupled to an upper end or a lower end of the front panel (230); and a rear panel (220) coupled to an inner side of the front panel. The side panel taught in the prior art of Figure 2 possesses a cover part (231) having a side shape of a refrigerator door; an insertion rib formed extended with a certain thickness and height at one marginal portion of the cover part, and including a front side rib portion (233) formed at an edge of the front side and both sides of the cover part (231) and inserted into the end portion of the front panel (210), a rear side rib portion (234) formed at an edge of a rear side of the cover part, an overlap rib portion (235) formed at both ends of the rear edge of the cover part, having a certain length, and distanced from the rear rib portion (234), and an outer side rib portion (236) formed at both ends of the cover part and overlapping with the both sides of the front side rib portion and the overlap rib portion; and a hinge insertion part (232) formed at the other side of the cover part, formed at both end portions of the cover part in a longitudinal direction, and coupled to a hinge coupled to a refrigerator body. The prior art of Figure 2 fails to teach a coupling unit that meets the particular limitations of the applicant's claims. However, the patent to Tillman teaches a coupling unit located on an insertion rib (Figure 4, Item 64) of the member to be coupled (56), for the purposes of attaching to another member (76) wherein rectangular-shaped holes (74) are formed at both sides of the member in which the coupling unit is to engage (76) and wherein the coupling unit is fixedly engaged in said holes. The coupling unit taught by Tillman comprises a slit having a cantilever form (Figure 6, Item 72) with a certain length formed at one side of the insertion rib (64); an elastic portion formed inside the slit, of which one side fixed, having a cantilever form with a certain length and the same longitudinal direction as that of the member (76) to which it is

being coupled; and an engaging portion (70) formed extendedly protruded at one side of the elastic portion, with a triangular form in its cross-section (see Figure 5), and formed protruded at an outer side of the insertion rib (64). The examiner points out that the elastic portion of Tillman's coupling unit can be divided into two parts along a line that is perpendicular to the direction in which the elastic portion is cantilevered, and that bisects the engaging portion (70) of said elastic portion; the first part (i.e., the "inner side") being that part of the elastic portion that connects to the insertion rib (64), and the second part (i.e., "end side") being that part of the elastic portion that is hanging free. By this interpretation, Tillman teaches a coupling unit with an elastic portion wherein the width of an end side of the elastic portion is thicker than an inner side thereof. Since the coupling structures of Figure 2 and of Tillman are conventional, alternative structures used for the same intended purpose, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the coupling unit taught by Tillman into the prior art of Figure 2 in order to provide a secure but non-permanent connection between side panel and refrigerator door, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Seemage (6,535,379) teaches a computer casing wherein the cover (80) of the CD-ROM drive utilizes snap-fit coupling units of the type claimed by the applicant. Antonucci (6,305,725) and Manke (6,736,470) also teach the use of coupling units of the type claimed by the applicant.

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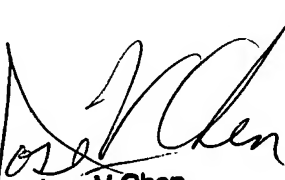
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew W. Ing whose telephone number is (571) 272-6536.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MWI MWI
5/1/2006


Jose V. Chen
Primary Examiner